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# FOCUS

A JOURNAL FOR  
GAY WOMEN

\$.50



JULY '73

FOCUS: A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN  
July 1973

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Corresponding Sec'y..Laura Robin

FOCUS staff: Linda Lachman, Schel,  
Wendy, Laura Robin, and Geri  
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THE COVER: This flag flew at the Gay  
Pride March in New York  
City June 24 in the Lesbian  
Feminist contingent. Photo  
by Laura Robin.

GAY PRIDE WEEK PHOTOS p. 13:  
First one by Laura, last two  
by Schel.  
More photos on display in the  
D.O.B. office.

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS  
CALENDAR  
July 1973

TUESDAYS 7:30 pm RAP SESSIONS ON BEING GAY, FOR WOMEN. Now located at our new big, beautiful office, Room 323 at 419 Boylston Street, Boston. Share feelings about being gay; newcomers especially welcome.

THURSDAYS 9-10 pm GAY WAY RADIO PROGRAM, WBUR-FM 90.9 on the dial.

SATURDAYS 8 pm GAY POETRY READING. Meeting House gallery, 70 Charles St., Boston. If you want to read call Charles at 536-9826.

SUNDAYS 1 pm D.O.B. SOFTBALL. Bring ball, bat, glove, and/or self; informal games. Magazine Beach field, Cambridge, across the Charles River from Cadillac-Olds and along Memorial Drive west of the Boston University Bridge.

7pm GAY MEDIA WATCH. Concerned with presentation of gay issues in the media. Charles St. Meeting House, 70 Charles St., Boston.

July 1-28 EXHIBIT OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY EILEEN FRIEDENREICH. Panopticon, 187 Bay State Road, Boston. 267-8929.

July 12 at 8 pm WOMEN'S LOBBY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING. For place call 489-2414.  
THURSDAY For more information on the Lobby call Fran Henry in Room 275 at the State House, 727-6198, and read the July FOCUS.

July 14 D.O.B. PICNIC NUMBER 2 AT COCHITUATE STATE PARK, NATICK. Rides leave the SATURDAY D.O.B. office promptly at 9:30 am. Bring your own food or buy at the concession. Bring your toys. There will be horseshoes and softball (bring gloves, bats, etc). Get there early or you may not be admitted to the park as it fills up. Turnpike west to exit 13, Route 30 east 1 1/2 miles. Park is on the right. If you can give or will need a ride, call the office weekday evenings or Wednesdays. P.S. Fresh water swimming & a beach too.

July 30 at 7:30 pm D.O.B. BUSINESS MEETING for all members. Others may attend.  
MONDAY At the D.O.B. office.

August 5 at 10 pm LAVENDER HOUR, WBCN-FM, 104.1 on radio dial.

August 12 D.O.B. PICNIC. Place to be announced.  
SUNDAY

August 18, 19 D.O.B. CAMPING TRIP, HAROLD PARKER STATE PARK, READING. Details SATURDAY, SUNDAY next month.

#####

BOSTON DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, ROOM 323, 419 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS. 02116  
PHONE: 617-262-1592

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all women 18 years old and older. \$10/ year, \$15 for a couple  
Includes one subscription to FOCUS. Send your name and address and phone number with a signed statement that you are a woman 18 or over.

FOCUS: A JOURNAL FOR GAY WOMEN. Monthly. \$5/ year, 50 ¢ for a sample.

D.O.B. CALENDAR: Monthly. \$1 for 6 months.

ALL D.O.B. EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL WOMEN REGARDLESS OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS IN D.O.B.

D.O.B. WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY AND TIME IN ITS EFFORTS TO REACH OTHER GAY WOMEN, TO PROVIDE RAPS AND SOCIAL EVENTS, TO WORK FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF GAY PEOPLE.

#####

LETTERS TO FOCUS

Hey gang-  
It has finally happened. There's a women's bar open every night of the week just for us, and if we don't support it we'll be cutting our own throats.

The Saints, at 112 Broad Street in Boston is a straight bar by day and gay by night. Some of the women that work there during the day decided to see what they could do about using the bar on weekend nights (Sat. and Sun.). Tony, the owner of the Saints, decided to take a chance and O.K.'d the venture and the women's bar opened. The women managing the bar are committed to making it a success. It was, and now it is open every night of the week.

It is possible, however, that they may have to reclose it on weeknights since they are losing money. If the Saints lose, we lose. We lose the chance to meet each other in an amiable atmosphere. We'll lose OUR place.

Now come to the Saints, have a drink, relax, play paddleball, chess, watch T.V., dance, be with your friend, make new friends. Please come, patronize OUR place.

Directions: take MBTA to either State St. Station or Aquarium. It's near the corner of Broad St. and Atlantic Ave. The phone number if you get lost is: 423-4333.

Love,  
Wendy and Schel

Dear Friends,  
I look forward to Focus every month. It's one of the few ways I have of keeping up with the news.

Now I am wondering if there are other women in the Pittsburgh area who read your journal. If so I would like to correspond with some, 35 and older, who are interested in organic gardening and health foods.

Thanks again Focus and don't ever quit.  
Sincerely,  
Ms. Ann Vernon  
P.O. Box 152  
Irwin, Pa. 15642

Dear People:  
As of May 1st the American Civil Liberties Union has begun a new two year project of which I am the Director. This is a national project on Sexual Privacy, a project which seeks to repeal all laws throughout the country which invade sexual privacy and especially those laws that discriminate against homosexuals and prostitutes.

In pursuit of these ends we are seeking as much information as possible to provide an adequate background for the consideration of these issues. As we are operating under limited funds, would you be able to supply us with the following:

FOCUS: A Journal for Gay Women

We feel this would prove quite helpful and informative. At the close of this project all requested materials will be incorporated into the ACLU library which is a major civil liberties resource for scholars and researchers.

Thank you for any help you may be to us.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn G. Haft  
Director, Sexual Privacy Project

A.C.L.U.  
22 E. 40th St.  
New York, NY 10016

#####  
#  
# D.O.B. GETS NEW OFFICE #  
# #  
# At the June 26 rap, we held open #  
# house for our new spacious, com- #  
# fortable quarters in Room 323 #  
# in the same building at 419 #  
# Boylston Street, Boston. About #  
# sixty women dropped by to enjoy #  
# the punch and conversation. The #  
# rap room is as nice as Holmes #  
# Hall and is all ours! #  
# #  
# Special thanks go to Val, Paula, #  
# and Geri for all the work they #  
# did cleaning, painting, and #  
# moving. #  
#####

HOW I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO O.D. ON ONE MORE RAP GROUP,  
BUT DIDN'T

by Linda Lachman

I have attended a good number of gay rap groups run by various organizations, because I enjoy throwing words around and chewing on other peoples' thoughts. I don't know what it is I really expect of a rap session nor do I really know what is clearly accomplished by a rap, or what exactly makes a good rap or a bad rap. The Women's Rap Tuesday night of Gay Pride Week was a good rap session.

If it took me awhile to come around to saying that the rap was good, it's because I'm not sure if raps are entirely good. Oh, of course, there is some purpose. For some people raps are a catharsis - letting out thoughts that couldn't be said elsewhere; or sometimes it may be an exchange of information and a gathering of new facts; for others it may be a discovery of happy "norm" or "sameness" - when they hear someone else say something that they thought only they felt and experienced; while last, but certainly not least, it may simply be the strength of the camaraderie experienced in the presence of the fifty or more women jammed together all trying to share and unite on one wave length. Certainly these are all valid, and I have experienced all of these conclusions at various raps, but sometimes I, also, feel as though all that is ever really accomplished is the release of a lot of air and feelings, and then a quiet nothingness follows as everyone settles complacently back into their pre-rap boxes, with the same people carrying on as they did before - the same leaders leading and active, and the same lookers-on talking and doing nothing.

Many excellent thoughts were expressed Tuesday night and I think most people felt, when they left, as if something had been accomplished; but, again, what really was that accomplishment? Perhaps, after all, I did go in with some expectations and uneasiness. I guess I didn't want it to be just another rap session - they are always readily available three nights of every week. I had hoped for something more, for action to be initiated, for all the groups to come together

and form a united front and plan to do something for the gay women's community. That was the accomplishment I was looking for Tuesday night. Perhaps I expected more nitty-gritty work and less heavy talking - although as I want to keep saying, what was discussed was done well and certainly that alone has merit.

A few ideas were thrown out and went the way of all words - a community center for all gay women in the area, the need for unification and communication between gay groups, and between feminist and gay groups, and so on, but the needs were all that was discussed and not what could be done for a solution. Perhaps I was asking too much. At the end of the evening lists were hastily passed out for people to sign and just as haphazardly madly signed by a crush of people. But I have signed lists before, and nothing has developed.

My conclusion then, after almost being overwhelmed by the good feelings that came out of the rap is: I am guilty, we are all guilty, of listening to ourselves say wonderful things in the fever of the spirit of an evening and then the morning-after vacuum of forgetfulness sets in. And nothing gets done...and then the next beautiful rap occurs and we remember what still hasn't been done...while the same steady workers and patient leaders keep trying to get the lists of signatures to be live people and helping hands.

If this sounds like a "who-is-she-to-be-shaking-a-finger-at-us" call to action, the finger is being pointed as much at myself as at anyone in our community - it is so easy to talk and make it sound right, but it's not so easy to do. Good raps are a great help sometimes, and Tuesday night was certainly not a wasted evening, but it seems to me as though it is time to make something of all the wonderful words and do something.

## GAY PRIDE WEEK IN BOSTON--A COLLAGE

by Laura McMurry

The Parade. June 16

What's a parade without a band, right? For the first time in the history of Boston gay marches (1971, 1972, 1973), we had a band. There didn't seem to be a Gay Marching Band around so the planning committee hired a band. I had heard it was a high school band and figured it would be our luck to get one that sounded like the one that plays at Magazine Beach during softball on Sundays.

But, parade day came and there they were--at the head of the procession, right behind the GAY PRIDE WEEK banner, American flag proudly flying--the Braintree Braves Drum and Bugle Corps--and they were little kids! The oldest was maybe twelve. It was really nice.

Workshops.

Women's workshop. There was no effort in advance or at the workshop to make it achieve anything for the future. As Linda Lachman says in her article, it was a rap. This was fine with me since I'm more into rapping these days and less into organizing.

The most interesting part was the talk about relationships between individuals & couples and of individuals in a couple to others. There were too many people to get into anything very far, though.

Relationships. Both men (more) and women were there. A lot of routine talk about the legalities of marriage and adoption, though few people said if they were personally interested in adoption. What about a coupleship where one works and the other stays at home? At first people thought this was not good, but later decided it depends on "how the people concerned feel about it". Men brought up "tricking out a lot" as though it were a common experience for everyone in the room.

The coffeehouse.

One of my favorite evenings was spent sitting at a sidewalk table on the patio at the Gallery Coffeehouse at the Charles Street Meeting House, talking with a friend, drinking 25¢ lemonade and eating 45¢ delicious cake, saying hello to the people I knew who walked by, and reading the first Gay Community Newsletter. About forty people were sitting there enjoying the warm evening. The sense of community was fantastic.

New York City. June 24.

In contrast to past years, the march went at a pace that even the most snail-like could manage, and I had no trouble running from one end to the other snapping historic shots.

The sea of people at the end at the rally in Washington Square was so huge that I couldn't find anyone I knew for over an hour. A lot of disunity erupted between the transvestites and the lesbian feminists. The latter objected to the way the men in drag portrayed women, and many women whooped during a drag presentation. The transvestites in turn accused the gay movement of leaving them in the lurch and ignoring the plight of some of them who were in jail.

An icecream vendor had a near fight with a "goddam cocksucker"! Within hearing distance of the main rally, a smaller circle gathered around a minister and three dozen missionary followers, both men and women. He said, "Now I don't mean to offend you, but we just cannot go along with this idea of homosexuality." A tall, bare-chested man broke into the circle and began shouting about gay love. "These are the sinners," he screamed, pointing at the congregation. The earnest young women and men began to sing a hymn, never faltering, in beautiful harmony, as the gay man became more frenzied. When he took off his belt, I expected a riot and got out of the circle. Just then there was a huge furor from the Gay Rally. I ran over there with every-

MONTREAL: WHERE THE GAY SCENE IS LEGAL AND THE BARS ARE PLENTIFUL  
by Wendy

On Thursday night I got a great idea. Why not go to Montreal? Why Montreal? Because I've never been there, of course. I found the airfare to be comparable to that of NYC from Boston, so I made reservations for the next evening with Delta, and off I went.

My first encounter in the city was a freak cabbie. When asked about the gay scene he seemed offended, but confessed there was a cafe - for men only - that he knew about. Discouraged, I continued to walk around town, and found a threesome of effeminates gliding down the street. I immediately approached them and inquired about gay bars. After a lengthy discussion of my serious intent, they invited me to join them at a drag show to be held at PJ's Cabaret, which was directly across from where the cabbie had been parked.

At PJ's my eyes pierced the smoke-filled light to find another woman, to no avail. I milled around some, drank, smiled and took in the decor (the wallpaper of which looked like a fancy brocade). The entire interior was impressive, well furnished and surprisingly comfortable (although it was a bit crowded).

The drag show began with a slender hostess introducing a stripper, Ann-Margaret, in drag. Next came Liza Minnelli, also in drag, who did some fantastic back bends, but as an entertainer was poor. When she began her second number, "I Am Woman," there seemed to be a surge of pride swelling up from the more effeminate men.

Later, I did find two women sitting in a corner at PJ's. The first one spoke little English so she got her friend to help me. Her friend knew of one bar - for men and women - the Baton Rouge,

but did not know its location. Other women came in but I was unable to speak with them because of the crowd. There must be more information somewhere I thought.

Finally, I found Pierre. He spoke little English, but his enthusiasm to help directed me to Madame Actzoo on Bishop. I found that Madame Actzoo is really Madame Arthur on Bishop St, and is the straightest gay bar I've ever encountered.

It is a bar for women only. It is small and in almost all ways oppressive. The women were thirty-ish, well dressed, with airs of secrecy and elitism. The dance floor is tiny and the music the worst I've heard in years. It was quiet with little intermingling or talk.

I asked if the bars were the only way gay women have to meet each other. The reply was an emphatic yes. There are few groups that meet in any capacity to discuss gay issues. Surprisingly, it is legal in Montreal for two consenting adults to engage in homosexual sexual activity. It seemed strange that women would not organize in a supportive way in the city.

There was a remarkable difference in the feelings I got from the men only bar and the women only bar. At PJ's I felt very comfortable and accepted. Men went out of their way to lend assistance. At Mdme. Arthur's, because the women were so reserved, I felt ill at ease and inhibited. No one said as much as hello to me.

Next, I hit Love which is above Cafe La Boheme. A bar for men and women, it is just the opposite of Mdme. Arthur's. People felt good and you knew you could easily approach anyone to dance.

The music was great, everyone was into dancing, and a friendly atmosphere prevailed. It was comfortable and lively, in fact, I highly recommend this bar to anyone bound for Montreal - women and men.

I was very curious about gay political involvement in the city and learned of a gay woman at McGill University who knew of gay activities at the school. She informed me of a group called GAY that is sponsored by the university and funded with monies from the student center. They receive between \$7-8,000 annually. Supposedly, most of this money is repaid. They are strong on campus and are amazing fund raisers. They hold dances monthly and draw close to 1,000 people. Only 10-20 of this number are women!

Jackie, of McGill, said that most women in Montreal are very closeted; "although the laws have changed, that doesn't change public opinion." She says women are now becoming part of GAY and asking for a part of the money. The men contend that they initiated GAY and are a majority, therefore they are not obligated to gay women for financial support. The women are trying to organize a women's center, but without finances and female help they are facing difficulty. In a later letter I received from Jackie she says that the Women's Place had an opening date of early May, so it may well be that it has indeed opened.

The feminist groups in Montreal seem comparable to those in Boston. There are varying attitudes within the groups and Jackie finds that some women just don't like lesbians. She says; "I guess the first step of overcoming oppression is to publically label yourself even if you don't believe in labels." One thing seems certain; nothing happens if nobody knows about you.

Mdme. Arthur  
2170 Bishop St.  
Women only

Love (above Cafe La Boheme)  
1418 Rue Guy  
Women & Men

La Bistro  
St. Cathrine  
Women & Men

Pont De Paris  
St. Andre near St. Catherine  
Women & Men

Baton Rouge  
St. Denis  
Women & Men

P J Cabaret  
1422 Peeâ St.  
Mostly Men - Some Women

Rocambole  
1426 Stanley St.  
Men only

#####

#### GAY PRIDE MARCH, 1973

I am  
a shout!  
The bluest sky is barely worthy  
of my joy -  
no longer the remorseful being  
that used to call me for a name.

I am a sun  
with light to spread  
and warmth to share!

I sing, I play  
out in the streets  
shining with the other stars.

Our love  
outshines creation.

--Linda Lachman



by Wendy

by Jan Clift

Over fifty women were in attendance in an attempt to expand the women's lobby on Monday, June 11 at the State House.

In an introductory statement, Roberta Benjamin, the Women's Lobby Chairwoman, explained that the activities of the lobby are a collective effort to have women's voices heard in the processes of government. The Lobby is an organized venture to influence decision making policies of state government.

Shelley Cohen, administrative assistant to Barney Frank, emphasized that the system is responsive and the processes of government are infinitely easy to understand. Everyone can be involved in the lobby process no matter how much or how little time can be volunteered. Contacts, writing, phone work, testifying and talking to your representative do not consume an enormous amount of time.

Six to eight thousand bills are filed annually and the reps cannot go through each and every one. Outside citizens can change and influence voting in the chambers, but it takes some recognition on the part of the representative. We will not change legislation if we do not make ourselves known.

Anyone can file a bill. All you have to do is find a legislator to sign it, preferably someone who will support it. If you cannot find anyone, your own state rep MUST file the bill. Each bill gets a public hearing; this is where the lobbyist comes in. You must make contacts and find out what the interest is. The Women's Lobby is a public interest lobbyist group. It cannot work if there is no interest in what is happening.

The meeting proceeded with a legislative summary of the bills set forth in 1973. Inclusive in the summary is: Name Change, Credit, Tax Deductions for Child Care, Maternity Leave, Divorce, Day Care, Jury Duty, Sexual Preference, Equal Rights Amendment, Property Taxes, Education, Abortion Repeal and Contraception, and Welfare and Employment. A copy of the summary may be read at the DOB office. For information about upcoming meetings see the FOCUS Calendar.

JAP--Jewish American Princess. The bad things in life don't happen to us. We always thought. You grow up knowing you will be successful at what you do, you will marry a bright young man who will give you security. Or if not marriage you will have a profitable career. Good things will come to you. And Mommy and Daddy will always help you.

Because you're a JAP --you'll never really worry about money. You'll never worry about loneliness, you'll never worry about the prospects of an old age on social security, alone, financially and emotionally.

You'll never worry about sitting in your room waiting for the phone to ring -- for someone to answer your roommate ad--and only getting guys who want to talk about sex. Being scared out of your mind first that no girls will call, and you'll have to pay next month's rent alone, and walking around with that awful tightness because you can't spend money because you have to save it because next month you may have to pay the rent alone, and already being broke to boot. And then being scared out of your mind because you've got this ad in the paper for a roommate. "Gay female rmte. wanted". It says.

And it's got my phone number on it, and it's in our local weekly newspaper and I'm scared out of my mind that someone who knows me will recognize the phone number. Because I grew up in this town, my family live here, my straight friends live here. And there's my phone number right beside an ad for a gay female, like me.

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#### RAFFLE

Boston Feminists for Lesbian Liberation is having a raffle- A \$50 gift certificate to the Harvard Coop will be awarded to the winner. The Drawing will be Aug. 31st at the Saint's. Buy tickets from Wendy, Geri, Lois H., Schel, 50¢ each, \$2 for five.

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## SODOMY BILL DEFEATED; SENATOR HALL EXPLAINS HIS STAND TO CONSTITUENTS

The last of the Massachusetts gay bills, H. 3313, came to its end in the House with a favorable vote of only 16 out of some 240 representatives. H.3313 was the one which would have repealed the laws against sodomy, adultery, etc.

The representatives who voted in favor of the bill were:

Royal Bolling, Boston  
 Royal Bolling, Jr., Boston  
 John Buckley, Abington  
 Doris Bunte, Boston  
 John Businger, Brookline  
 Lawrence Buxbaum, Sharon  
 Barney Frank, Boston  
 Paul Guzzi, Newtonville  
 David Mofenson, Newton  
 Lois Pines, Newton  
 James Segal, Brookline  
 George Sprague, Sherborn  
 Nils Nordberg, Reading  
 Peter Masnik, Worcester  
 Jon Rotenberg, Brookline  
 Max Volterra, Attleboro

The vote was not easy for some of these people, and all would appreciate a thank you from their constituents. The bills will be submitted again next year.

Senator Robert Hall, Lunenburg, who led the floor debate in support of H. 3220 and H. 3218, the two bills which would have made discrimination against gays illegal, sent D.O.B. a copy of an article he wrote for his local paper explaining his action. We reprint that article here:

Fitchburg Sentinel, June 7, 1973.  
 SENATOR HALL REPORTS--HOMOSEXUAL  
 VOTE DEFENDED, by Senator Hall

I have received much comment and several letters about my stand on H. 3218 and H. 3220, two bills which would have prohibited discrimination against homosexuals. I spoke in favor of these bills and voted for them, and I think that I should explain my stand. These two bills would not have made any homosexual act legal, but would have forbidden discrimination against homosexuals in the areas

of employment, housing and public accommodations.

First let me say that I oppose discrimination against any group ...Catholics, Jews, Blacks, French, Irish, women, or homosexuals. If you want a Senator who believes in discrimination and prejudice, I am not your man.

All the religious and medical leaders who came before the Commerce and Labor Committee said that homosexuals could not help being that way and should not be discriminated against. I am grateful to the many religious leaders who have supported my stand, including Father Oddo, a Catholic priest who has counseled many homosexuals and who wrote letters to the local papers supporting my stand.

Secondly, I oppose more taxes and welfare. If the thousands of homosexuals are fired from their jobs, they will be forced to go on welfare which means more taxes for you. One of the homosexuals who testified before the committee was fired for it and is now on welfare.

If you are against these bills you are for higher welfare and taxes. You can't have it both ways.

To those people who have said I shouldn't waste my time on homosexual bills, I would like to point out that they were brought before the Senate where you pay me to speak and vote. I spent about five minutes on these bills, just as I have on hundreds of other bills. However, only the controversial ones make the papers. I don't believe that the people elected me to be a political hack, to hide my head in the sand and only do what is politically safe. I intend to do what is right and let the chips fall where they may...As I told the Senate President, 'I may only be here two years, but it's going to seem a lot longer!'

A REVIEW: OUR BODIES, OURSELVES  
 SIMON & SCHUSTER  
 N.Y., 1973, \$2.95  
 Paperback, \$8.95 Cloth  
 By Pat M. Kuras

The cover reads; Our Bodies, Our-  
selves with the subheading; a  
 book by and for women. That in  
 itself tells what the book is  
 all about.

Perhaps the best way to review  
 this book is to give a brief run-  
 down of why and how it came to  
 be written. In the spring of  
 1969 there was a women's con-  
 ference which had a rap group of  
 "women and their bodies". The  
 group discovered they had all had  
 similar angry and frustrated  
 feelings toward the medical  
 field. These women came to the  
 realization that they had much  
 to learn about themselves --  
 their bodies. They spent a  
 summer researching and gathering  
 information, and later, in the  
 fall, they presented their re-  
 sults as a course for women.  
 The raps and researching have  
 been continuing since '69. The  
 initial group of women that be-  
 gan this research has changed.  
 At the present time the authors  
 (known as the Boston Women's Health  
 Book Collective) are twelve  
 women who act as a group to help  
 other women understand, accept,  
 and be responsible for their  
 physical selves.

The first chapter deals with  
 changing our internalized values.  
 Women have always been seen  
 (and thus influenced) as being  
 1) inferior, 2) passive, 3) sex  
 objects, 4) wife and mother.  
 What women should intend to do is  
 reclaim the human qualities that  
 have been labeled as all-male-  
 oriented. Our society should be  
 one in which all qualities can  
 come out in all people.

In writing this review I find it

very hard to refer to Our Bodies, Our-  
selves as a "book". It is  
 so much more than print on paper  
 and pages bound together. Each  
 chapter is packed with individual  
 personal experiences that are  
 shared with the reader. When  
 I read these sections of the  
 book I know that I'm being told  
 something intensely personal:  
 other's own feelings, fears,  
 perceptions, and ideas. The  
 book discusses growing up, vir-  
 ginity, fantasies -- all amp-  
 lified with actual thoughts and  
 experiences.

The book is unique in its ap-  
 proach to anatomy and physio-  
 logic of our bodies. At no point  
 does the book fall into cold  
 clinical literature. The book  
 gives diagrams, descriptions and  
 explanations of reproduction and  
 sexuality in plain easy-to-  
 understand terms.

The book progresses in a respon-  
 sible chronological order begin-  
 ning with sexuality, exercise,  
 venereal disease, birth control,  
 abortion, child bearing, and  
 menopause. Two chapters in the  
 book I feel are especially note-  
 worthy. One chapter deals with  
 rape -- how we can defend our-  
 selves in such a situation; how  
 the law treats a rape victim;  
 what can we do as women. (Many  
 women's organizations are set-  
 ting up rape squads that will  
 be beneficial to rape victims --  
 accompanying them to hospitals,  
 letting them express their  
 anger, etc.) The second chapter  
 that I felt was very important  
 was the book's chapter on les-  
 bianism (which was not written  
 by the Women's Health Book Col-  
 lective, but rather a gay collec-  
 tive from Boston).

(continued.2nd column p. 11)

by Schel Paul

i've been trying to remember how to write a book review and i can't so i'll have to write something i want to write or like to write something you'll see that i'm streaming my consciousness a little the way JJ does and maybe that is where you'll read the book is like. i could never be as impossible to understand or as outright brilliant as in glowing as JJ but these minor drawbacks shall not prohibit my own adventures on this page. to begin with all you sisters out there must find JJ's book that is it is absolutely essential and other phrases of necessary that you read it because it is about you and me and the only way we are ever going to have a revolution and change this heterosexist oppressive society is to withdraw from the male into the lesbian nation. stop oh please don't give over yr prime energies to the oppressor says JJ give them to yr sisters understand as the blacks did that first we must build ourselves into strong mentally and physically self-fulfilling women and we need all our efforts and time and energies now to do this it sounds so unbelievably simple really i don't understand how anyone could use the word radical it should be as obvious as every woman waking tomorrow morning and looking at herself in the mirror and saying yes i want to help myself and help my sisters it is the same thing donate me to me and my sisters not to my oppressor this is what JJ asserts and yes indeed it makes sense. i have to give you just this one quote i mean i started marking important things the second love experience i spent with the book and found that i was underlining the whole lesbian lovely literature and thought that a waste so i stopped but there is this one quote which is a premise that the whole book comes from. "All women are lesbians except those who don't know is naturally they are but don't know it yet I am a woman who is a lesbian because I am a woman who loves herself naturally who is other women is a lesbian a woman who loves other women loves herself naturally this is the case that a woman is herself is all woman is a natural born lesbian so we don't mind using the name like any name it is quite meaningless it means naturally I am a woman and whatever I am we affirm being what we are..." it was very hard

for me to stop there and not type out the whole rest of the book for you because by the time she finishes she has one feeling awfully terrific and stupendous about being oneself and i think that is where it begins especially for us lesbian women. lesbian feminism is the thread and the core and the birth and the life of what JJ writes about and she takes you there through her own autobiography and JJ experiences of all sizes and universes and if you can follow her everywhere she goes then please get in touch with me at amazon headquarters real soon.

Our Bodies, Ourselves, Con't.  
from p.10.

In concluding this review, I must say I feel very honored to have been asked to write this. I feel there is something I should share with everyone reading this. I am a lesbian, and this book, Our Bodies, Ourselves, is what helped me out of my closet.

One evening, after a DOB rap, a group of us were discussing why we came out. I mentioned this book, and said that I was into photography and was attracted by the picture essays of women in the book. In the chapter dealing with lesbianism, there is a picture of two women embracing. I remember staring at that picture for a very long time and feeling a great warmth and serenity that I had never felt before. It was then that I decided I didn't want to be alone anymore. I wanted to meet more people like myself. I came to DOB. (DOB was the only lesbian organization I knew of). After I gave my spiel on why I came out, the woman next to me, Laura, asked if I would write a review of Our Bodies, Ourselves. I have no degree in journalism and I have never been asked to write an article before, so I felt very honored to have been asked to write this.

Sister  
 blueshirted sister,  
 standing  
 toiling  
 just down  
 the line  
 from me,  
 at Station #2  
 winding wires  
 for GM  
 distributors -  
 you do that  
 good.  
 better than  
 most of the men,  
 better than  
 some of the  
 other sisters.  
 you do it  
 good.

Sister,  
 welding with  
 sparks and flame,  
 riveting  
 small bolts  
 from your  
 hand-gun,  
 sister  
 who makes  
 jets  
 that don't  
 fall from  
 the sky,  
 you do that  
 good.  
 better than  
 most of the men,  
 better than  
 some of the  
 other sisters.  
 but  
 you  
 do  
 it  
 good.

--gingerlox

I wish  
 I could  
 spear songs  
 like fish  
 and string them  
 in a garland  
 to adorn  
 your fair head.

--gingerlox

Please do not scold me for my joy & glee  
 Or weep at my lack of responsibility,  
 For I am myself you must admit,  
 And do not care to sew or knit.

I'd rather jump and play in the sun--  
 like the grasshopper I'm out for fun.  
 You hasten like the busy ants  
 Caring not for song or dance.

You tell me when my youth has past  
 My songs of joy will never last.  
 Like the grasshopper I'll have my fill,  
 But like the ant you never will.

--Geri

My love came quietly to an end  
 Upon an autumn day;  
 The Indian summer peace was here  
 And had its way.

"She has no need of me," I said,  
 And saying, closed the door -  
 And found myself on another road  
 That I had never traveled before.

--Geri

Sunshine and heavy roses  
 And utter quietude  
 Whatever life discloses  
 This is my interlude.

This still content I borrow  
 This calm beside the way  
 Against a strange tomorrow  
 I hold this mine today.

--Geri

#####

D.O.B.  
 PICNIC

SATURDAY JULY 14  
 COCHITUATE STATE PARK  
 NATICK

The one we had in June there  
 was so fun we're having  
 another.  
 SWIMMING, BOATING, SOFTBALL,  
 HORSESHOES, LOAFING.

See the calendar on page 2.

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<http://www.historyproject.org/>  
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